

## City Council Minutes

### January 28, 2002

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met in regular session on January 28, 2002 in the council chambers of city hall at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Lewis Key, Councilors Saager, Widmer, Lyon, Stewart, and Kelley. Staff members present were City Manager Delphine Palmer, Assistant City Manager Linda Hall, Public Works Superintendent Howard Moss, Police Chief Mike Gallaher and Electric Superintendent Mike Charlo.

Citizens present were Don Wiggins, Pat Wedin, John Short, Ellen DeGross, Ed Chestnut, Patty Key, Curtis Walter, Mary Clark, Keith Woods, Pat Thomson, Merle Sherman, and others.

Representing the press were Kathy Korengel of the Union Bulletin, Jennifer Hemmingsen of the East Oregonian, and Jeff Durham of the Blue Mountain Pioneer. Councilor Debbie Kelley moved to approve the Consent Calendar items. Councilor Saager seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Consent Calendar included the approval of minutes of the January 14, 2002 and also Resolution #1864 Authorizing Signature to Amendment #1 of Agreement #18728, Local Agency Fund Exchange Agreement.

Mayor Lewis Key announced to the audience that this was the time in which citizens could approach the council. None approached.

Under APresentations@, Marcus Goodwater, School Resource Officer for the Milton-Freewater Police Department, instructed the council on the ADare Program@ within the City of Milton-Freewater. The program is a 17-week program presented to 5<sup>th</sup>-grade classes at both Freewater and Ferndale schools. Currently he is teaching 5 classes at Freewater School and 2 classes at Ferndale School. Dare program is not just about drug prevention. The Dare program shows the youth of our community how to be good citizens. The program also discusses choices and consequences, peer pressure, self-esteem, and affects of mind-altering drugs. The Dare program also introduces police officers to the youth of the community. The cost of the Dare program is funded through community support, not by the City Police Department. Officer Goodwater then requested from the Council any support the City would be willing to offer this program to aid in its cost.

Councilor Debbie Kelley asked if we were using the new Dare program. Officer Goodwater assured the Council that he had the latest training on the Dare program last September.

The next issue to be addressed was an authorization of a grant application for the Rural Trails Program. Public Works Superintendent Howard Moss explained this item of business. Moss explained he had been looking for grant opportunities and this grant specifically is for trails only, but not to be confused with the bike trails. This item has a lot of community momentum as well as the Skate Park; however, it doesn't look like the grant for the Skate Park will be completed on time. The Rural Trails will be a walking path about 2.1 miles long. If constructed, the path will begin at the parking lot by the Aquatic Center and the Little League field. Through Yantis Park, this path would be paved about 8 ft wide made of asphalt concrete. This section came as a recommendation from our Recreation Committee. The path would cross Milton Ditch,

continuing up the hill where there is an existing shelter that would be amended where people would be able rest. The path would then continue well above Yantis Park and go adjacent to the Golf Course, exiting down through the upper-nine holes of the Golf Course, walking on down past Mr. Johnson's house on Casco Street. The course would then continue through the alley (east and west) connecting on Broadway by the Post Office, going to the 9<sup>th</sup> tee and then meet the High-School field track where you could detour and walk the track. The trail would then continue to the back of the legion field. The trail would be paved at all the lower portions. The trail would end where it started by the tennis courts. The project looks good with the State of Oregon, but the grant process is competitive with less than \$2 million dollars state-wide. This is attractive because it is an excellent trail with scenic views up above. Mr. Moss stated he has heard comments for 24 years to get this project done. Benches will be placed in various areas, with kiosks at areas of interest. The property owners adjacent to the proposed trail support this project, but need to protect their CRP program on the land use. The negative aspect is that the grant does require matching funds. The cost is estimated at about \$63,000.00 to construct which needs a 20% match. City crews and outside contracts can go into this application. If it were true cash, it would be approximately \$13,000.00. Mr. Moss stated he does not think this should affect the golf course as it doesn't go through the course, but does go close. A fence would be constructed by 9<sup>th</sup> tee. This trail would also allow access for the handicapped and there are seven letters in support, with more coming. February 7<sup>th</sup> is the application deadline. If funded, it would be in the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Moss asked for an endorsement to move ahead with the application.

Councilor Herb Saager asked what the distance was. Mr. Moss answered at 2.1 miles. City Manager Delphine Palmer suggested this trail would have a positive community effect with walk-a-thons. This would draw people into the community and have an impact economically as well.

Councilor Dick Stewart had a call from a citizen who was concerned about kids with bicycles and skate-boards on this downhill stretch coming off the upper 9<sup>th</sup> tee.

Councilor Stewart asked how this would be controlled.

Howard Moss stated the project by design would not have any hard-surfaced areas on any incline. There would be a turn-style over at the entrance by the golf course.

There would be another one at the entrance on Casco Street. Moss also stated that it was possible to smuggle bicycles and skateboards into these areas, and there will be added liability to this project. This project is not expected to be a big liability.

Councilor Dick Stewart stated that bicycles already ride on the hill behind Yantis Park. Howard Moss suggested this project could be serviced with a small city vehicle for patrolling.

Councilor Stewart reported that the Vets in Walla Walla had runners from Wa-Hi and Whitman walking and running around their perimeter.

Howard Moss said he was a walker and he would be the first to use this facility.

Councilor Kelley moved to accept the authorization of grant application for rural trails. Councilor Saager seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next considered was Resolution #1865: Supplemental Budget. Linda Hall reported that at the time that the budget was put together, we were between administrative officers in our police department. Corporate Richman and Stalling discovered that the

police department had been awarded grants for ATraffic Safety Law Enforcement Grant@ totaling \$4,000.00 and their purpose is to assist in enforcing the seatbelt law and also driving under the influence of intoxicants law. Staff is asking for permission to accept these funds. The grant requires a match; however, the match is to fund a full-time officer that would be working this grant on an overtime basis. The grant funds the actual overtime, so the match is not something that we do not expend already.

Councilor Saager moved to accept the grant and Councilor Kelley second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #1866: No Parking Designation For West Side of North Columbia was next on the agenda. Mike Gallaher stated he has serious safety concerns with this busy area. There have been recent accidents at NE 5<sup>th</sup> and Hwy 11 and also NE 4<sup>th</sup> and the entrance to the bank parking lot. Gallaher sees a potential conflict that develops with traffic parking on the West side of Hwy 11 on the actual Hwy surface itself in the 400 block. We have an increase of traffic and a slight increase of accident occurrences, although, in Gallaher=s 13-years he felt this area was one of the busiest crash-sites that he has personally investigated for this City. A letter addressed to Mayor Key on January 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year from Oregon Department of Transportation requested a ANo Parking@ zone be designated in this area. Chief Gallaher asked for a resolution banning parking on the 400 block of N. Columbia on the West side. This would take up the entire stretch adjacent to Safeway parking lot. Gallaher has seen semi-trucks, pickup trucks with snowmobiles, and RV=s all park along this stretch and busy traffic on NE 5<sup>th</sup> have obstructed visibility.

Councilor Stewart asked how violators would be approached if the ban is implemented.

Chief Gallaher said he was working with Public Works Superintendent Howard Moss to assure proper signs and paint will be used. The curb will be painted yellow and officers will be instructed to enforce the ANo Parking@, but will also see that there is opportunity for education along this stretch.

Councilor Stewart reiterated that education would be necessary as parking has been permitted for approximately two years without enforcement.

Chief Gallaher then said he did not know the history behind this area. The state put up the signs, but our ordinances did not cover this area, and so there was no enforcement. ODOT wanted a parking ban 2 years ago, so this is a good opportunity to reinforce their concerns along with ours.

Councilor Kelley understands a light would be placed at this intersection [5<sup>th</sup> and Hwy 11]. She asked the time-line on this project.

Linda Hall said it was in the developmental stage and she believed Howard Moss could confirm this.

Howard Moss said the project had been delayed. Conservatively, Mr. Moss estimated it would be 1 2 years before the light was erected..

Councilor Kelley questioned if ODOT would evaluate the placement of the traffic light any further now that the bank has gone in on that corner. She also expected this area is not well lighted and it is difficult to see pedestrians, especially at night.

Chief Gallaher proposed a cross-walk in this area to ODOT about 3-4 years ago, but ODOT didn't feel they could justify another cross-walk so close to the existing crosswalk.

City Manager Delphine Palmer asked that since the City police have not enforced this ANo Parking@ for two years, would they put an add in the paper, give out warning tickets for a proposed time period?

Chief Gallaher stated that he felt that education would be a good start before enforcement.

Councilor Stewart had heard recently that the Baker Boyer Bank had offered to pay for a light at NW 5<sup>th</sup> and ODOT turned them down. Is that correct?

Chief Gallaher stated that a bank employee had mentioned that to him.

Howard Moss said there was about a 15-member group that was studying that whole corridor. The corridor begins at NW 3<sup>rd</sup>. He also feels the state is more friendly with their committees, but we need to look into local methods for safety.

Councilor Kelley suggested that moving the existing light north would make more sense than to put in a new one, if the state is not looking into placing a new light into service in addition to the old one.

Mary Clark, a citizen and business owner, approached the Council and stated that many merchants and several citizens had served on a transportation committee in the past. Surveyors came in to determine what to do on their 20-year plan. This issue was addressed at that time. Because of the older people at the Evergreen, Clark asked for some kind of a safety walk because of these older people. The State was asked to move the light down towards Safeway. The State told them if they took out that light we would get nothing in return. It is possible they may have changed their mind. Mary Clark said that it was very difficult back then to get the State to listen to our needs here in the City of Milton-Freewater and that if someone is listening now, to Astrike now while we can@.

Councilor Widmer suggested this issue was brought up before and the concern was the trucker and snowmobiler who stopped to get some food from Safeway. Further, Safeway=s parking lot is challenging to enter from Hwy 11. These people will probably still park on Hwy 11, but up further in from of Bank of America, and then walk back to the store. Council debated that and decided to table the issue as they couldn't decide how far they should go. It was debated whether or not to extend the ban as far as Bob and Al=s Coast to Coast Store. ODOT put up their signs and Council decided not to enforce it for what ever reason. Now we have the bank across the street and if there is no parking on the West side, will North-bound traffic park on the East side and then walk across this busy and poorly lighted area as Councilor Kelley suggested? Perhaps we should ban parking not only on the West side, but on the East side as well if we are going to take this step. The question is how far south do we go with the parking ban. If Safeway is the magnet that draws the parking crowd, then perhaps we should go further south to make it inconvenient for shoppers to walk back to Safeway. Councilor Widmer said he would support the ANo parking@ zone if it included the East side as well as the West side.

Chief Gallaher said that originally a draft was written to prohibit parking on both the East and the West side. The reason that we chose the prohibit parking on the West side only is because the main concern was the visibility of traffic turning onto

Columbia from NE 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Another reason for withdrawing, was that the traffic Northbound would not be impacted by the Eastside parking, but Gallaher also stated he would not be apposed to prohibiting parking on both the West and East side of Columbia.

Mayor Lewis suggested the situation has changed since the bank has opened. Chief Gallaher said he believed it had changed and that there was a natural conflict because traffic northbound that has to cross Columbia into Safeway parking lot, conflicts with traffic southbound that wants to turn into the bank parking lot. Hopefully ODOT will effectively deal with this conflict.

Councilor Saager asked how irate Safeway was over this issue.

Linda Hall said there wasn't any comments from her office, but Councilor Stewart said that originally (2 years ago) they were in opposition to it. Councilor Saager said they were adamantly apposed to it, but perhaps have changed their minds now.

Councilor Kelley suggested she was comfortable with the proposed resolution as written and then wanted more input from our own police department as to how things are shaping up, and hopefully the study that ODOT is doing will help us determine what to do with the rest of it.

Councilor Kelley moved to adopt Resolution #1866 to inhibit parking on the West side of N. Columbia Street in the 400 block. The motion died for lack of a second.

Councilor Widmer moved to adopt Resolution #1866 prohibiting parking on both the East and the West side of N. Columbia in the 400 block. This motion died for lack of a second.

Chief Gallaher stated that on the East side of N. Columbia, this would be in the 300 block.

Councilor Lyon suggested that council had to do something because of the resolution from ODOT.

Assistant City Manager, Linda Hall stated that she believed the main issue here was that there is a dangerous situation and that we are on borrowed time until someone gets injured or killed. Does it affect Safeway? Probably, but Linda felt that to the greater good and the greater decision that peoples lives are at stake and to take action prior to having an injury or fatality. ODOT felt strongly enough about the situation to submit a letter to staff and our Mayor. The situation will only be made worse when a light is implemented at this 3-way intersection. Ms. Hall urged Council to take action, whether one side or both, but to decide.

Mayor Key suggested that when citizens became used to not parking on N. Columbia, that they could park on Elizabeth behind Safeway.

Chief Gallaher apologized to the Council for not having an opinion from Safeway and left the issue to the discretion of the Council.

Councilor Saager stated that people could not park on Elizabeth because residents of the Labor Camp parked along there as well as cars behind the offices where the DMV is. Safeway is then cut off entirely, but Councilor Saager said he did not have an objection to that if the majority of the Council wants to do that, but we don't want to invite traffic to park on Elizabeth.

Councilor Widmer then suggested we were back to where we were 2-years ago and we could not tell where to draw the line as to where drivers could park on Hwy 11.

However, Councilor Widmer acknowledges that Ms. Hall made a good point about being on borrowed-time with regard to injuries or fatalities.

Councilor Saager asked how many people parked along the West side of the street go into the bank.

Chief Gallaher said he didn't think this was real frequent.

Councilor Kelley said she could see what Councilor Saager was talking about because she is down through that area during the day and she did not see that much parking on the East side of N. Columbia. Councilor Kelley doesn't see that bank patrons are the problem with pedestrian crossing, but instead the residents that live close to Safeway. Councilor Kelley also suggested that the original proposal of Resolution 1866 provided the necessary needs of both the state and community.

Ed Chesnut, a citizen of Milton-Freewater, shops at Safeway and banks at Baker-Boyer Bank. Mr. Chesnut said that he was in agreement with Councilor Widmer and offered an analogy of a semi-truck parked in front of Safeway, a car parked in front of the bank, a vehicle traveling North trying to turn left into Safeway parking lot and a vehicle traveling South trying to turn left into the bank and you have a dangerous situation. Mr. Chesnut suggested that Councilor Widmer was right, because now was the time to prohibit parking in front of the bank before it begins.

Linda Hall reiterated the motion made by Councilor Widmer as prohibiting parking on the West side of the 400 block of N. Columbia and the East side of the 300 block of N. Columbia (SR Hwy 11), and to authorize appropriate signage of the effective surfaces, and circulate, to the public, educational materials, and allow a 60-day grace period of written warnings by our police department.

Councilor Kelley questioned the East side of the 400 block just beyond. Councilor Saager suggested that the traffic light would take care of this problem by the viaduct. Councilor Kelley explained this was not the area, but the area directly across from Safeway parking lot.

Councilor Widmer defined the area as the center of NE 4<sup>th</sup> through the center line of NE 5<sup>th</sup> on the East side.

Discussion ensued between several councilors.

Councilor Widmer's motion was amended to include the East side of the 300 block, between the 300 and 400 block of N. Columbia. Councilor Lyon second the motion and Resolution 1866 was passed with yes votes from Councilors Kelley, Widmer, Saager, and Lyon. Councilor Stewart voted no.

The Council declared a short recess at 8:00 p.m., reconvening at 8:10 p.m.

Next on the agenda was Resolution #1867: No Parking Designation for East Side of Elzora Street. Public Works Superintendent Howard Moss led the discussion by first explaining exactly where this No Parking was proposed. Elzora is a dead-end street that goes North of NE 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Baker-Boyer Bank exits). When Mason Grove was developed it was understood that Elzora Street would not be used by that development. The complaint is that over-flow parking from the Mason Grove development is on Elzora Street, and residents on Elzora Street lose access to their own homes.

Councilor Lyon asked if parking was prohibited on the East side, if the West side of Elzora would then be invaded. Mason Grove believes this issue could be resolved

through their tenant manager. Further, there is additional parking on the improved portion of NE 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue that is provided with curbs and sidewalks.

Councilor Stewart asked if this restriction would eliminate parking of the landowners also, and it was confirmed that it would. He then asked if a private drive would change that designation. Mr. Moss suggested that a private drive would create more problems.

Councilor Widmer asked if a Dead End sign could be erected at the end of NE 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Mr. Moss said that had already been done.

Councilor Widmer moved to declare that there be no parking from the NE 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the end of Elzora Street on the East side. Councilor Kelley second the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

The next issue was Resolution #1868: Amending Employee Pay Plan and Job Description. Linda Hall stated that the next two items of business were closely related. The City has a long-time, valued employee retiring soon and in her many years of employment with the City she performed various duties for the Finance Department, earning a job title of Systems Operator. Beginning with the old IBM system, her duties included care of the entire system, data entry, and financial reporting; however, since switching over to the automated computer software Caselle, the responsibility is utility billing. Because of the changes and out of respect for this retiree, we would like to propose that the job description be altered to Utility Billing Clerk, which is more representative to what the job currently does and the salary scale be lowered accordingly. We would also like to retain Ms. Judy Partin to aid in training a new employee for a limited amount of time.

Councilor Widmer asked of the financial impact the City would have while Ms. Partin continued employment during February. Ms. Hall said it would be limited, but negotiations had not been entered into yet.

Councilor Kelley moved to adopt Resolution #1868, Amending Employee Pay Plan and Job Description, and retaining Ms. Partin as a consultant for the month of February.

Councilor Stewart second the motion and it was passed unanimously.

The next resolution on the agenda was Resolution #1869: Honoring Judy Partin for her valuable employment with the City of Milton-Freewater since 1974. The resolution was read by Mayor Lewis Key. Councilor Widmer moved to pass Resolution #1869 and Councilor Saager second the motion. The resolution was passed unanimously.

The next item of business on the agenda was the Bid Award: Irrigation-Center Pivot. Public Works Superintendent Howard Moss explained that at the City farm one of the five center pivot systems, which is about 12 years old, has failed due to extensive pipe rust. It would not be cost effective to invest more money into repairs of this system. Two sealed bids were received. Dunning Irrigation at \$48,200.00 and Pendleton Grain Growers at \$52,483.17, both within specifications and similar equipment and warranties. There are sufficient funds in the Sewer Improvement capital budget.

Councilor Lyon asked if this system came with a computerized control box. Mr. Moss assured Council that it did come with a computerized control box and that the City salvaged the concrete base and the piping coming up to it as well as all of the heads. Councilor Stewart asked of the life-span of these units. Mr. Moss said the warranty was 8-years @ 100% with a prorated warranty after that.

Councilor Kelley made a recommendation to award the contract C-166 to the low bid from Dunning Irrigation in the amount of \$48,200.00. Councilor Lyon second the motion and the award was passed unanimously.

Consideration of a budget request for \$200 expenditure for sponsorship of the Chamber Banquet Table was next on the agenda. The table decorations will be at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet. Councilor Schneck has volunteered to decorate our table. A review of the Council budget revealed that the expenditure would be within reason.

Councilor Widmer asked if this was something done historically and Linda concurred that it had indeed been an annual event and expenditure for the Council.

Councilor Saager said it was nice that the City was involved in one of the tables at the banquet and moved that the budget request for \$200 be accepted. Councilor Stewart second the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

Discussion Regarding Official City Newspaper was next on the agenda. Councilor Widmer was led to believe by his attorney that he was prepared for this discussion; however, after considering the cost incurred to date and possible future costs, Councilor Widmer decided to respond himself. Councilor Widmer has not yet been able to accomplish this, so therefore proposed that this issue be tabled until the very next Council meeting, at which time there would be ample time to review it.

Councilor Kelley asked if there were any public notices that needed to be published before next Council meeting. Ms. Hall said she didn't think from this Council meeting that there were any Ordinances to be published, but she did not know if the Planning Department had any public meetings coming up. Since the City has been challenged with this issue, Ms. Hall has advertised with all three newspapers that would be in contention for legal advertising dollars. With this being an election year, election notices were advertised in all three newspapers so this process could not be challenged.

Councilor Saager stated he thought it okay to delay till the next Council meeting, but that a decision had to be made at that time.

Michael Shepherd, publisher of the Walla Walla Union Bulletin and Blue Mountain Pioneer, noted their concerns were voiced last year on November 3 of last year and that we were now approaching 60 days for the Council to review this matter. It would not seem that this issue is being addressed in a timely manner, so he would like to see a timely resolution to this issue.

Councilor Widmer suggested he was not offended by the comments if they were meant to suggest that he was dragging his feet.

#### MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Delphine Palmer wanted to remind everyone that she had not had email for about the last week and one-half due to the server and Delphine was concerned that messages were not getting in or out. Ms. Palmer also said she hoped the problem with the server would be fixed this week.

Ms. Palmer then discussed Founder's Day. She is real excited about this and on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate a Founder's Day recognizing individuals and companies that made the golf course a reality. She would like to have a barbeque luncheon with a formal presentation revealing a commemorative plaque, which will be placed in a visible area on the golf course. The plans also include a 9-hole



tournament. If this is successful, it may become an annual event. The money for this event comes from the golf club, but Ms. Palmer would like the City to contribute a little to this as well. Ms. Palmer further stated that these people needed recognition and that it may well be overdue. She is requesting names and companies of those involved in this project and she believes that she has most of the names, but she would like to have names of people that may no longer be with us.

Tomorrow there is a Budget Law seminar, and several of the employees are going as well as some of the members of the Budget Committee, along with our new Finance Director who took the initiative to attend.

Ms. Palmer went to Pendleton and heard Governor Kitzhaber speak on the state budget she agrees with many of the things he said. Kitzhaber is looking at budget issues and doing the actual budget, and expressed his concerns over budget.

Kitzhaber has many of the same concerns we have here in the community.

Our injured lineman, Mike Watkins, will be returning to work in a temporary position as a grant-writer. He will be coached in this area so he can be productive and we are real excited about his return.

Next, Ms. Palmer asked Public Works Superintendent Howard Moss to give an update on the Sewage Treatment Plant and also the \$1.2 million street upgrade project.

Mr. Moss said the Sewage Treatment Plant is under construction right now and if anyone would like to tour this facility, let Mr. Moss know and he will make arrangements to go as a group or individually. The City is embarking on about a \$5 million project to upgrade our entire sewage system. It began with the reconstruction of a sediment pond on the farm that began to fail and the Oregon DEQ required us to improve this. That was phase one and the cost was around \$500,000. The second phase is the construction of the new treatment plant. Huellet, the contractor for this phase, should be done with this phase about April 1<sup>st</sup> at a cost of around \$1.4 million. The third and final phase is the construction of an additional sediment pond on the farm. We have to store this water and irrigate during non-agronomic irrigation periods. The funding for this phase and also for part of the second phase is in jeopardy right now. The grant person working on this has informed us we may not be as eligible as once thought for the low-interest loan that was anticipated obtaining for this phase and perhaps the grant itself for \$750,000. Mr. Moss stated he felt we could still obtain these funds by justifying the need for the grant. If we are unable to obtain the loan, then we will have to shop for another low-rate, or lowest rate, loan available. The state loan was about 4.1% with a loan of \$2.3 or \$2.6 million. The payment for this debt service is around \$140,000 and is expected to be paid with a rate increase adopted in October of 1999 of \$5.80. To date this financial strategy seems to be working. If there is a problem with the debt service, then Mr. Moss suggested to scale back the project to fit the revenue. This project should be completed by November 2003.

Councilor Stewart asked if there would be any reserve built in to the revenue plan. Mr. Moss said that yes there would be reserve dollars in the contingency account of the sewer plant.

Howard Moss then discussed the street improvement project. Mr. Moss said the governor for the state of Oregon convinced legislation to float \$400 million in bond revenue to finance ODOT highway reconstruction projects. Preservation (the City

applied for this one), modernization, and cameras/bridges were the main focus of this bond. The City applied for a preservation project that begins at the stop light next to the Roff office following Broadway and turning on Main again, ending at Marv's Glass Shop on NE 4<sup>th</sup>. This would include grinding away old asphalt, improving curbs, and placing a new overlay on top. The second part of the project would be to begin on Lamb Street at Brinker Brothers and continue North to Powell Road. With this project the City would be bound to take over the state highway. We will get more gas-tax revenues because there will be more mileage of City streets. This is how we maintain our streets based on miles of streets and the gas-tax. The negative side of this is that there will be maintenance of this stretch of roadway within this 25-year program,

Councilor Saager asked if the City would have the right to inspect materials and workmanship of the project. Mr. Moss said we would actually do this ourselves. The state said it would be optional whether they engineered the project or turned it over to the City. An I.G.A. (Inter-governmental Agreement) will be coming to the council in the next month with regard to this project. Mr. Moss said this was scheduled to begin construction during the next fiscal year.

City Manager Delphine Palmer commended Mr. Moss for seeking funds for the city, even when he felt it may be impossible to get the grants. Ms. Palmer further reported the intensive research and narrative process involved in writing grants, and that these projects are outside the scope of his job.

#### COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Saager announced that as Council President he would like to commend Judy Partin for all of the years of service to the City. If we all acted as dedicated employees as she has, we would all be very fortunate. Second, if there is any spare money in the council budget, he would like to see money donated to the Dare Program from the Council.

Councilor Widmer stated there should be ample money to do as Council Saager suggested [Dare Program] as there were several council members that elected not to go the League of Oregon Cities training in November and that saved about \$800 per person. Councilor Widmer said if Councilor Saager wanted to make a motion on a set amount of money, he would support this. Councilor Saager said he wanted to see budget figures at the next meeting before suggesting a set amount of money.

Assistant City Manager, Linda Hall stated she would prepare a fact-sheet to present to Council at the next meeting.

Councilor Lyon said there was some confusion after the meeting with people from Combine Hills [wind machines]. The confusion was that the City was involved in this and Councilor Lyon wanted to announce that the last he had heard, the City was not involved in this.

Councilor Stewart stated that while going through the Payment Approval Report, he noted communication costs for phone and cell phone long-distant calls in the amount of about \$1,700.00 and that he would like to have the City pursue this issue and see if the bill could be reduced. Councilor Stewart thought it a high bill for one month of service for communication.

City Manager Delphine Palmer asked if this assignment would come from the Council since we were beginning with the approved new processes.

Assistant City Manager Linda Hall interjected stating the line item in question was \$1,211 which is a charge for all of our different lines, including our 911 system. The balance would be approximately \$500 for long-distance charges.

Councilor Stewart then stated he wanted the research to be done to investigate car phone and cell phone charges. He further questioned whether employees needed two phones each. He knew that some had cell phones as well as car phones. Councilor Stewart felt there may be some savings if some of these phones could be deleted from service.

Mayor Lewis Key suggested this be researched during the budget process.

City Manager Delphine Palmer said that we could investigate this and see if there were possible savings.

At 9:00 p.m. Council adjourned to Executive session.

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Lewis S. Key, Mayor